

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJ: DRC MEETING OCTOBER 30; KEY ELEMENTS OF MINISTERIAL

GUIDANCE - CHARACTERISTICS OF FORCES

REF: A. USNATO 4527; B. USNATO 5940; C. USNATO 5730;

D. USNATO 5938

SUMMARY: AT DRC MEETING OCTOBER 30, DISCUSSION OF CHARACTERISTICS OF FORCES AS A KEY ELEMENT OF MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE FOCUSED ON DIFFERENCES IN ASSUMPTIONS UNDERLYING IS DRAFT AND US MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE PAPER. MOST MEMBERS, INCLUDING MC, SHAPE AND SACLANT REPS, FAVORED LANGUAGE IN US PAPER ON REINFORCEMENT AND SUSTAINING CAPABILITY, AVOIDING SHORT-WAR ASSUMPTIONS OF IS DRAFT. US REP CRITICIZED IS DRAFT, OFFERING PARAGRAPH 32 AND 33 OF US MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE PAPER AS AN ALTERNATIVE ON SECRET

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CONVENTIONAL FORCE DESIGN. DRC AGREED TO DELAY FURTHER DISCUSSION OF FORCE CHARACTERISTICS PENDING MORE DISCUSSION ON OTHER KEY ELEMENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. AT DRC MEETING OCTOBER 30, MEMBERS DISCUSSED CHARACTERISTICS OF FORCES AS A KEY ELEMENT OF MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE. MC REP (MGEM TOMMASINI) CRITICIZED IS DRAFT (REF A) ON SEVERAL GROUNDS, ESPECIALLY BECAUSE IT FAILS TO ACCOUNT FOR FORCES THAT BECOMES AVAILABLE AFTER THE FIRST FEW DAYS OF HOSTILITIES. SHAPE AND SACLANT REPS (BGEN MILLER AND CAPT MAYO) RAPIDLY AGREED, ALL THREE CALLING FOR A RETURN TO PRESENT MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE LANGUAGE (DPC/D(74)8). SACLANT REP ADDED THAT THE IS DRAFT CONTAINS NO PROVISION FOR CHARACTERISTICS OF MARITIME FORCES IN THE APPROPRIATE SECTION. UK REP (MACDONALD) SUPPORTED SACLANT REP, STATING THAT MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE SHOULD PROVIDE FOR MARITIME FORCES HERE, WHETHER OR NOT A SEPARATE KEY ELEMENT COVERING MARITIME FORCES EVOLVES FROM THE PRESENT MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE EXERCISE. CANADA REP (COL. SHEFFIELD) COMPLAINED THAT IS DRAFT FOCUSES ENTIRELY ON CENTER REGION, AND CONTAINS NO REFERENCE AT ALL TO SUSTAINING CAPABILITY. HE SUPPORTED THE US PAPER'S BROADER RANGE OF TOPICS, BUT QUESTIONED NEED FOR CHARACTERISTICS OF FORCES KEY ELEMENT AT ALL, IF RESOURCES ELEMENT COULD INCLUDE PROVISION FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES.

2. US REP (LEGERE) AGREED WITH CANADA REP THAT RESOLUTION OF OTHER KEY ELEMENTS WILL NATURALLY TEND TO RESOLVE CHARACTERISTICS OF FORCES. HE THEN CRITIQUED THE IS DRAFT'S RELEGATIONS OF CONVENTIONAL FORCES TO A WARNING OR PROBING FUNCTION, AND ITS INCONSISTENT TREATMENT OF NEED FOR RESERVES TO SUSTAIN COMBAT. HE REMARKED THAT WHAT REMAINS HAS STRONG FLAVOR OF SHORT WAR, AND THAT US IS COMMITTED, IN ONGOING MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE EXERCISE, TO GETTING EXCLUSIVE TREATMENT FOR SHORT, CONVULSIVE WAR ASSUMPTIONS OUT OF NATO DEFENSE PLANNING. HE PROPOSED US MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE PAPER, PARAGRAPHS 32 AND 33, AS AN ALTERNATIVE WAY OF LOOKING AT THE SUBJECT.

3. SACLANT REP, STRESSING THAT HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS ON US PAPER, SUPPORTED LEGERE'S STATEMENTS ON NEED FOR SUSTAINING CAPABILITY. NORWEGIAN REP (LEINE) ALSO SUPPORTED LEGERE'S STRESS ON MOBILIZATION FORCES. FRG REP (CAPT WELZ) EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH THE IS DRAFT REGARDING NEED FOR READY FORCES IN PLACE NOTING THAT THEY HAVE HIGH SECRET

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DETERRENT VALUE. HE COMMENTED ON US PAPERS EMPHASIS ON COMBATANT UNITS, AGREEING WITH TS SUGGESTION THAT MANPOWER IN MARGINAL UNITS OUTSIDE THE NGA MIGHT BE REDISTRIBUTED. UK REP INQUIRED AS TO WHAT NATIONAL SPECIAL PURPOSE UNITS US HAS IN MIND FOR ELIMINATION OR REORGANIZATION IN PARAGRAPH 33 OF US PAPER. LEGERE RESPONDED THAT PARACOMMANDO UNITS MIGHT BE AN EXAMPLE. BELGIAN REP (COL TAYMANS) EXPRESSED GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH IS DRAFT, BUT POINTED OUT ITS DIFFERENCE FROM PRESENT MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE ON INTERPRETATION OF NATO STRATEGY (DEFENSIVE STRATEGY VS FORWARD DEFENSE STRATEGY). CHAIRMAN STATED THAT LACK OF REFERENCE TO FORWARD DEFENSE IN IS DRAFT, IN FAVOR OF GENERAL STATEMENT OF DEFENSIVE STRATEGY, WAS MERELY TO EMPHASIZE DEFENSIVE ROLE OF NATO VIS-A-VIS THE WARSAW PACT, NOT TO CHANGE INTERPRETATION OF THE STRATEGY.

4. DISCUSSION THEN TURNED TO PROGRESS MADE ON KEY ELEMENTS TO DATE, AND WHETHER DRC IS FULFILLING ITS TASK IN PREPARATION FOR DECEMBER DPC MINISTERIALS. NETHERLANDS REP (CARSTEN) ASKED CHAIRMAN IF IT IS POSSIBLE FOR IS TO GIVE CRISP TREATMENT TO ALTERNATIVE FORMULATIONS ON CONCEPTUAL ISSUES SUCH AS WARNING OF WAR, DURATION OF HOSTILITIES, PRIORITIES AND CHARACTERISTICS OF FORCES, SIMILAR TO THAT GIVEN TO RESOURCES (REF B)). US REP AGREED WITH NEED TO LAY OUT ALTERNATIVE FORMULATIONS, AND CRITICIZED TENDENCEY OF DRC TO FOCUS ON IS DRAFT LANGUAGE AS IF CONSIDERING THE MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE ITSELF. ITALY, DENMARK, NORWAY AND CANADA REPS SUPPORTED CARSTEN AND LEGERE. CHAIRMAN NOTED THAT MANDATE FROM MINISTERS WAS TO BE AS SPECIFIC AS POSSIBLE. HE ADVISED THAT IS GOAL IS TO FOCUS DISCUSSION ON VARIOUS ISSUES, AND COMMENTED THAT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN IS AND US DRAFTS ARE ACCENTUATED BY DIFFERENCE IN APPROACH. HE ACKNOWLEDGED DIFFICULTIES IN DRAFTING ALTERNATIVE FORMULATIONS ON PURELY CONCEPTUAL ISSUES, AND THAT HE WOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO REDRAFT FORCE CHARACTERISTICS LANGUAGE. HE ASKED WHETHER MEMBERS DESIRE TO PRESS ON TO NEW KEY ELEMENTS OR RECONSIDER OTHERS FIRST. CANADA, US AND NETHERLANDS REPS FAVORED PRESSING ON, WITH IS KEEPING A RUNNING ACCOUNT OF ALTERNATIVE FORMULATIONS. CHAIRMAN AGREED.

5. CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCED AT END OF MEETING THAT IS HAD PREPARED QUOTE A LITTLE PAPER END QUOTE THAT REVIEWS WARNING TIME ISSUE AND GOES ON TO LINK DURATION OF HOSTILITIES, PRIORITIES AND FORCE CHARACTERISTICS CONCLUSIONS TO ITS JUDGMENT ON WARNING TIME. THIS PAPER WILL BE CIRCULATED AS BACKGROUND IN A FEW DAYS. COMMENT:

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MISSION HAS OBTAINED A DRAFT COPY OF THIS PAPER. ITS TREATMENT OF WARNING TIME ISSUE IS HIGHLY RIGID, DISAGREEING WITH US VIEW, TO THE EXTENT THAT VIEW IS KNOWN HERE, IN ALMOST EVERY RESPECT. MISSION PLANS TO DELIVER INFORMAL COMMENT ON IT TO IS BY COB OCTOBER 31 AND WILL KEEP WASHINGTON INFORMED. ACTION REQUESTED: US PAPER PARAGRAPH 22 ON WARNING TIME, AS REQUESTED REFS C AND D. MCAULIFFE

SECRET

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